

The Ohio Rules of Superintendence for the Court of Common Pleas requires the administrative judge in a multi division to assign cases and maintain a docketing and calendaring system. This Court has delegated this responsibility to the Assignment Commissioner's Office, which consists of the assignment commissioner and one assistant.

The assignment commissioner is required to compile and report statistical data concerning the court's caseload to the Ohio Supreme Court. The computerized docketing system allows the court to monitor all pending cases and motions which have enabled us to provide accurate information for reporting purposes and case flow management. This statistical data is being made available to the public via the court web site so that you may have a better understanding of the annual case load of the Lucas County Domestic Relations Court.

DIVORCE/DISSOLUTION FILINGS BY YEAR

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
DIVORCES	1432	1474	1585	1666	1768
DISSOLUTIONS	536	573	574	567	590
TOTALS	1968	2047	2159	2233	2358

DIVORCES/DISSOLUTIONS JOURNALIZED

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
DIVORCE	1487	1592	1698	1795	1848
DISSOLUTIONS	537	589	560	582	594
TOTAL	2024	2181	2258	2377	2442

PENDING/POST MOTION FILINGS

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
PENDING	1736	1707	1626	1692	1487
POST	1974	1850	1880	1964	2116
TOTALS	3710	3557	3506	3656	3603

MAGISTRATE HEARINGS SCHEDULED

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
	8076	7600	7603	7706	7598

SCHEDULED HEARINGS DISPOSITION

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
HEARD	1402	1368	1401	1428	1564
SETTLED	1369	1516	1446	1457	1473
DISMISSED	1360	1243	1194	1214	1210
CONTINUED	2787	2403	2474	2530	2281
HEARD IN PART	64	74	84	86	87
PRE TRIALS	1094	996	1004	991	983
TOTALS	8076	7600	7603	7706	7598

The number of divorce and dissolution filings have decreased in 2004, compared to past years. However, the complexities of these cases along with pending and post motion filings continue to place great demand on the Judges and Magistrates for this court. Their efforts in executing and adjudicating legal matters within the Domestic Relations Court continue to provide statutory services to the residents of Lucas County and individuals having filed petitions in this court.

Additionally, the Court Counseling Department continues to play an important role in the court making recommendations to the judges and magistrates regarding custody and visitation matters. The department also provides services that assist families, who are currently going through a divorce, are involved in post divorce dispute, or are experiencing problems with domestic violence. The statistical results of the counselor services are incorporated into this page and will provide the public a better understanding of this court's counseling services.

This year marked a dramatic change in the court counseling caseload. Beginning in January 2004, the court adopted a policy that in pending cases where parties are disputing the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, the case will be referred to mediation prior to litigation. In order to prepare for the increase of referrals, the court made the decision to eliminate investigations in divorce cases with children sixteen (16) and older and in dissolutions with minor children, unless referred for a special divorce investigation. The lighter caseload will reduce the length of time clients must wait for the initial appointments with their assigned counselor.

CONTACTS

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
CLIENT INTERVIEWS	4109	4804	4823	4747	4877
CONTACT ON CLOSED CASES	1535	1529	1532	1434	2629
TOTALS	5644	6333	6355	6181	7506

MEDIATION

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
# OF FAMILIES	282	105	116	106	106

The number of petitioners filing for protection orders leveled off in 2004, with an increase of only seven (7) petitions. Domestic violence continues to be a critical issue in families, and the court continues to treat this issue as a very serious concern. The court counseling department works to keep abreast of new research and methods of handling these issues, and has collaborated with other agencies in the community to improve communication at delivery. We currently have a representative on the domestic violence task force, including the fatality review subcommittee, the domestic violence multi disciplinary team at children services, and the child abuse task force. In addition, we have collaborated with the family and child abuse prevention center and have a part-time violence advocate placed at the court.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	967	960	837	733	552
INTERVIEWED, NOT FILED	436	453	431	414	337
TOTALS	1403	1413	1268	1147	889

The Assisting Our Kids (A-OK) Program began in 1997. This program, now in its eighth year, is a collaborative effort with the Toledo Hospital, Center for Women's Health and Lucas County. This program is a two and one half hour educational program for parents involved in divorce, dissolution, modification of custody or other cases that involve minor children. The program is offered thirty-six (36) times annually, including weekends and holidays to accommodate different work schedules. More than 12, 000 people have participated in the A-OK Program since its inception in 1997.

ASSISTING OUR KIDS PROGRAM

YEAR	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
ATTENDEES	1564	1639	1799	1930	1968

Questions regarding this information may be obtained by contacting the Court Administrator at 419-213-6860.